

Giant Cicada Spotted at C.E. McCormick ATC

A topic of discussion in Kentucky and some surrounding states for the past few weeks has been the “**cicada**.” It is reported that the “Periodical Cicada Brood X” is expected to surface this month from a 17-year cycle underground.

Welding Instructor Charles Germann and his students have spotted the first “giant” cicada on the grounds of the C.E. McCormick ATC. The giant proportions are 4' 2" long, 3' 6" wide and 1' 6" tall. This is some kind of cicada. In fact, Gary Burbank, a WLW Cincinnati radio announcer who lives in the area even made reference to seeing the cicada on the school sign. While this was all done in fun, Burbank’s announcement created quite a bit of enthusiasm (and awareness of the ATC) in Alexandria. The radio show is aired in twenty-seven



states. Wow – talk about free publicity – it has even brought people to the ATC curious about programs and what other projects the class might take on over the next year.

The cicada project was developed by Germann in an effort to keep up with current events. He wanted to provide his students with an opportunity to learn more about the cicada while at the same time doing something fun. Therefore, he created a whole project that included research, layout, design and welding skills.

“My students scaled the model to exact body proportions and made it look like the real deal – red eyes, clear wings with orange veins, black body color and a reddish-orange leg color,” said Germann. “Since the ‘Periodical Cicada Brood X’ only appears every 17 years, we thought this would be a project the students would remember for a lifetime and one that they would specifically remember creating at the ATC.”

The welding students searched the web for cicada information and pictures. What they found was very interesting. The ‘Periodical Cicada Brood X,’ is expected to emerge this year sometime during the latter part of May when the ground temperature reaches 64 degrees. (Broods refer to spectacular adult emergences in 13 to 17-year intervals and are differentiated by Roman numerals.) Cicadas will generally be found all over the state; however, they do not sting or bite – they are harmless to humans – but they can be nuisance. Cicadas surface from the ground where they molt, mate and then die. Experts believe that all cicadas should die out by mid-June. We'll see Brood X again in 2021.



Giant Cicada